

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

I am writing to voice my support for three bills: SB 176, HB 5199, and HB 5203, as they relate to providing a clean and affordable energy future for CT residents.

SB 176, as written, does the following : (1) increases the size of eligible projects under the new renewable energy programs from 2 MW to 4 MW (2) increases the cap for shared clean energy facilities from 25 MW to 35 MW annually; (3) increases the minimum SCEF project capacity provided to low-income customers from 10% to 20%; (4) requires that at least 40% of SCEF projects be located in environmental justice communities (5) permits electric distribution companies to own solar power generation facilities within the Shared Clean Energy Facility program, and (6) allows commercial and industrial customers in the non-residential renewable energy tariff program to use their entire roof space for generation.

We urge the Committee to make the following changes to SB 176:

- Double the annual cap for the SCEF program from 25 MW to 50 MW annually
- Eliminate the six-year sunset provision on the SCEF program
- Eliminate the provision allowing the electric utility companies to own SCEF generation projects

HB 5199 requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to allocate federal infrastructure funding towards offsetting the costs of advanced metering infrastructure.

We urge the Committee to support the use of federal funding to help support and offset the cost of deploying the necessary Advanced Metering Infrastructure in Connecticut, expenses which would otherwise be borne by ratepayers.

HB 5203 gives the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority greater discretion to design utility revenue decoupling mechanisms or formulas, to require the authority to adopt cost-sharing mechanisms for excess earnings that direct most of these earnings to ratepayers, and to make other changes affecting electric utilities companies.

We urge the Committee to support these changes, which will limit utility expenses that can be recovered from ratepayers and provide the state's regulatory authority with the authority to establish an earnings sharing mechanism for over earnings by the utilities, such that ratepayers would receive at least 80% of such over-earnings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment in support of a well-protected climate future.

Sincerely,
Ms. Yann van Heurck